

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (CURRENT STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS):

1. (currently amended)

5 A cylinder carrying and chocking apparatus, comprising:

a first rigid elongate handle having a first end, a second end, and a first middle section;

10 a rope having a third end and a fourth end, the third end being fixed to the first end and the fourth end being fixed to the second end;

15 a second rigid elongate handle having a fifth end, a sixth end, and a second middle section, the fifth end having drilled through it a first hole, and the sixth end having drilled through it a second hole substantially parallel to the first hole, the diameter of the holes being larger than the diameter of the rope; and

the rope passing through the first and second holes so that the rope can slide through the holes; and

20 said the first, second, fifth, and sixth ends ~~have~~ having end caps affixed thereto.

2. (original)

25 The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said first middle section further comprises a first resilient grip; and

said second middle section further comprises a second resilient grip.

5 3. (original)

The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

said grips further comprise non-skid material taken from the group of:

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a) rubber;

b) polystyrene.

4. (cancelled)

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5. (currently amended)

The apparatus of claim 4₁ wherein:

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each of said end caps has a cross-section perpendicular to the axes of said handles, the periphery of the cross-section having at least one flat.

6. (original)

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The apparatus of claim 5 in which:

said cross-section is a triangle.

7., 8., and 9. (earlier withdrawn)

5 10. (currently amended)

A cylinder carrying and chocking apparatus, comprising:

10 a first rigid elongate handle having a first end, a second end, and a first middle section;

a first rope having a third end and a fourth end, the third end being fixed to the first end;

15 a second rope being substantially equal in length and diameter to the first rope, and having a fifth end and a sixth end, the fifth end being fixed to the second end;

20 a second rigid elongate handle having a seventh end, an eighth end, and a second middle section, the seventh end having drilled through it a first hole, and the eighth end having drilled through it a second hole substantially parallel to the first hole, the diameter of the holes being larger than the diameter of the ropes; and

25 the first rope passing through the first hole so that it can slide back and forth through the first hole, and having at the fourth end means for preventing the first rope from being pulled out of the first hole; and

the second rope passing through the second hole so that it can slide back and forth through the second hole, and having at the sixth end means for preventing the second rope from being pulled out of the second hole; and

5 ~~said the~~ first, second, ~~fifth~~ seventh, and ~~sixth~~ eighth ends have end caps affixed thereto.

11. (original)

10 The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

said first middle section further comprises a first resilient grip; and

said second middle section further comprises a second resilient grip.

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12. (original)

The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

20 said grips further comprise non-skid material taken from the group of:

a) rubber;

b) polystyrene.

25 13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended)

The apparatus of claim ~~43~~10 wherein:

5 each of said end caps has a cross-section perpendicular to the axes of said handles, the periphery of the cross-section having at least one flat.

15. (original)

10 The apparatus of claim 14 in which:

said cross-section is a triangle.

16., 17., 18. (earlier withdrawn).

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